

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Government for the Future

Government, designed to do for groups of people what they cannot do for themselves individually, has been the political tradition through the years in Heber City. Large political organizations or bureaucratic operations have been non-existent, as those elected to office have sought only one goal: to make Heber a better place in which to live.

Settlers who first came to the valley were schooled in the righteous principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and easily governed themselves. As the community grew, Church leaders assumed the role of directing civic as well as religious matters. Then the two areas began to separate in their needs and government officials came into the picture.

As outlined in Chapter 4 the first government unit in the valley came with the organization of Wasatch County by the Territorial Legislature on January 17, 1862. Major officers of the county government were a probate judge and selectmen. These officials, along with other assistants, directed the activities of all communities in the county until 1889 when Heber City was organized as a township, followed in 1891 by Midway and then by the other communities in later years.

One of the first governmental services afforded residents of the new settlement came even before many settlers arrived in the valley. During June of 1859, Jesse Fuller, deputy county surveyor of Utah County, came to the valley and surveyed the new location. He established the initial point of the community at the north end of Main Street on a west side lot long known as George W. Clyde's corner.

The Fuller survey plotted blocks 24 rods square, with the streets designated as five rods wide. Each block was divided into four lots 12 rods square. This first survey included a tract eight blocks south of the initial point and five and one-half blocks west, making the townsite three quarters of a mile long and one-half mile wide.

The first homes built in the settlement in 1859 and 1860 were in the fort area which comprised 80 square rods between what is now First West and Fourth West streets and Second North and Fifth North Streets.

A few months after the west part of Heber was surveyed, the east area of the townsite was laid out, with Main Street left as seven rods wide. The southern part of Heber City was at first homesteaded by Jonathan Clegg, and included an area a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. In 1875 Mr. Clegg sold three 40-acre sections to Wasatch County

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MAYORS OF HEBER CITY



James W. Clyde



Joseph A. Rasband



Joseph R. Murdock



John E. Moulton



Edward D. Clyde



H. Ray Hatch



John A. Fortie



Elisha J. Duke



J. E. McMullin

for only \$150, stipulating that the land should be subdivided into city lots and sold to raise money to support the city schools.

The land was appraised by Thomas H. Giles, Probate Judge, Abram Hatch, Bishop of the Church and Thomas Rasband, trustee for the schools. These appraisers met several different times to consider the prices to be asked for the lots and finally on August 29, 1876 decided that the prices would range from \$12 to \$20 per lot depending on the exact size. The average lot was 10 by 12 rods in size.

The surveyors who laid out the first lots in Heber City used the best

MAYORS OF HEBER CITY



H. Clay Cummings



L. C. Montgomery



Harold Stevens



Ralph F. Giles



Joseph Hylton



Maron R. Hiatt



Raymond N. Jiacoletti

equipment available to them, but it was limited in many ways. In 1888, about a year before Heber was organized as a township, William Buys, Wasatch County surveyor, checked the city and found it was "crooked."

His field notes record an entry on June 12, 1888 as follows:

"Made a preliminary survey of Main Street and the street running East and West North of Public Square known as Bk. 90.

"Find that the streets do not run at right angles.

"Also that the blocks by actual measurement overrun."

He then recorded in his notes the surveying work done through June 23, 1888 in which he adjusted the city to true measurements.

By 1889 Heber was ready for organization as a township, and Henry Aird was appointed as the first town board president. He served until 1894 when Thomas Huskinson Giles was elected and served two years. James W. Clyde was elected in 1896 and served until the election of Edward D. Clyde in 1898. Robert Duke followed in 1900 and served until 1902 when articles of incorporation were drawn up and the town became an officially incorporated city.

James W. Clyde was elected as the city's first mayor, with membership of the new city council form of government consisting of Joseph Hatch, E. J. Cummings, David C. Hanks, George A. Wootton and Joseph A. Murdock.

An early action by the mayor and city council consisted of calling for bids to run the sprinkling wagon through the city on dusty summer days. Bidders and their prices per day included Ed Tilt, \$2.80; Bert Tilt, \$2.50; J. C. Murdock, \$2.40; Harmon Cummings, \$2.50; Walter Wickham, \$2.25 and John Carlile, \$2.48.

The council acted on the "lowest qualified bid" and hired Mr. Wickham to sprinkle the streets.

In the election of November, 1903, candidates aligned themselves with the Democratic and Republican political parties, and the Democrats won a sweeping community victory.

The new city officials were Joseph A. Rasband, mayor; John T. Giles, four-year councilman; Joseph R. Murdock, A. B. Murdock, Orson Ryan and F. L. Clegg, two-year councilmen; David W. Hicken, marshal; LaVina Murdock, recorder; George Barzee, treasurer and Livingston Montgomery, justice of the peace.

In May of 1905 the city officials promoted a bond election to raise \$40,000 for the purpose of installing a water system. By 1905 the city council was able to pass the following ordinance:

"That a water works system be constructed to supply its inhabitants with water and shall be known and designated as Heber City Water Works. The said system shall be the property of said city."

Early the following spring, work was underway to complete the system. The main source of supply was the Broadhead Spring, east of the city.

Heber's third mayor was elected in the fall of 1905 and served during 1906 and 1907. He was Joseph R. Murdock. Serving with him on the city council were David Fisher, John T. Giles, Robert Duke, Joseph E. D. Tomlinson and John E. Moulton. Joseph A. Murdock was recorder with Moroni Moulton, treasurer; David W. Hicken, marshal and Fred L. Clegg, justice of the peace.

A significant cultural step was taken by Mayor Murdock in Novem-